

Securing performance rights, simplified

Securing performance rights for chapter conferences and Festival has now been simplified.

To find the publisher of a particular play, go to the following website:

www.playscripts.com/findaplay/. Use the Search function to find your play and its publisher.

We have negotiated the following process with several publishers. See the specifics for each below.

SAMUEL FRENCH www.samuel french.com

You can consider the Samuel French scene or monologue available for use if it **does not appear on the Red Light List**, and provided that it is **not from a play written by one of the following playwrights**:

Woody Allen	Ken Ludwig
Enid Bagnold	David Mamet
Amiri Baraka	Jane Martin
Philip Barry	Steve Martin
Bertolt Brecht	Peter Nichols
Eduardo DiFillipo	Eugene O'Neill
Ben Elton	Elmer Rice
Michael Frayn	Willy Russell
Charles Fuller	Peter Shaffer
John Guare	Claudia Shearer
David Hare	Sam Shepard
Eugene Ionesco	Tom Stoppard
George S. Kaufman (and all plays with his collaborators)	Thornton Wilder
Ira Levin	Hugh Whitmore
Charles Ludlam	

If your piece is from a play that you find on the Green Light Plays List, you have permission to perform the piece with no royalty charge. Do NOT contact Samuel French if a work is already on the Green Light List! It is pre-approved for use and does not require anything in writing. NO ROYALTY CHARGE will be assessed for these works unless the student is selected for the NIES Showcase at the International Thespian Festival; the royalty will then be \$15.00 (or \$75.00 in the case of Neil Simon works). This payment must be made at Festival PRIOR to appearing on the stage.

If your play is on the Red Light Plays List, you may NOT perform this piece, and you must NOT ask permission to do so—that request has already been made and denied. Please consult these lists carefully and do not call Samuel French with questions regarding availability. If a script is on the Red Light List, do NOT contact Samuel French to plead your case. Perform another piece.

If you've checked both the Red and Green Light Lists several times and your Samuel French work is not on either list, this means that the availability status has not yet been determined, and the student needs to FAX Samuel French for permission—do **NOT call or write**.

The request can be faxed to:
Stephen Schreuder, Amateur Leasing
Samuel French, Inc.
Fax: (212) 206-1429

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DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC. www.dramatists.com

ALL Dramatists Play Service works are pre-approved for the International Thespian Festival, with no written permission required and no royalty, unless the student is selected for the NIES Showcase. One exception: plays written by Samuel Beckett, which are NOT available.

BROADWAY PLAY PUBLISHING, INC. www.broadwayplaypubl.com

All pieces are available, with no royalty charge.

DRAMATIC PUBLISHING www.dramaticpublishing.com

See the Dramatic Publishing Green List for approved materials. If the work is not on the list, then it is considered to be “red light.” There is no charge for use in the International Thespian Festival NIES.

SMITH AND KRAUS www.smithkraus.com

Most Smith and Kraus collections and monologue books include a blanket permission statement for audition use. These collections provide a loophole if you are desperate to perform a piece listed on Samuel French’s Red Light List. Remember, however, that the particular piece you’re interested in performing **MUST** be found in one of these collections that include blanket permission.

PLAYSCRIPTS, INC. www.playscripts.com/rights

Currently royalties are waived for the performance of excerpts lasting less than 10 minutes at adjudicated school theatrical festivals or auditions, unless otherwise noted. These particular performances, and only these, are automatically authorized by the playwright when you purchase books from Playscripts. Note: Any other cuttings must receive prior approval from Playscripts.

EDWARD ALBEE

Edward Albee’s plays are now available for use in the International Thespian Festival NIES with the following rules:

- None of the scenes are to be altered in any way, including the deletion of characters’ lines for the formation of a monologue.
- The scenes must be performed contiguous and unaltered (no internal cuts). No royalty is required unless the student is selected for the NIES Showcase.

Securing performance rights for songs

Songs from shows fall into that vague area between grand and small rights. A licensing company (for example, MTI) owns the rights to the entire show. BMI and ASCAP own the “non-dramatic interpretation” of the individual songs. Dramatic interpretation (use of acting, props, costumes, movement) is not owned by the licensing houses or BMI and ASCAP, and therefore the “educational use” rule becomes the basis for determining use.

In that case, the student does not need to secure the rights as long as the environment is one in which he/she is evaluated/judged. This same process applies in a showcase environment. As long as at least two adjudicators are present in the audience for the showcase, the performance qualifies as an educational setting, and, therefore, proof of rights is not required. **HOWEVER**, the judges must complete critiques and provide them to the students. At the International Thespian Festival, there will be judges present at the Festival Showcase.